

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07267 191106Z

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07267

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KOHL, HELMUT), GW
SUBJECT: HELMUT KOHL PLANS TO VISIT US JUNE 25 - JULY 1

REFERENCE: BONN 7122

1. KOHL'S OFFICE HAS ADVISED US APRIL 19 THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (CDU) CHAIRMAN AND OPPOSITION LEADER HELMUT KOHL PLANS TO VISIT THE US JUNE 25 - JULY 1.

2. KOHL'S FOCUS AND PRIORITY FOR THIS VISIT WILL BE WASHINGTON AND HE IS WILLING TO FIT HIS SCHEDULE AROUND SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND ON CAPITOL HILL DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26-30. HE WOULD SPECIFICALLY LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN AND DR. BRZEZINSKI, PLUS LEADING FIGURES ON CAPITOL HILL. IN ADDITION KOHL PLANS TO SPEND 1-2 DAYS IN NEW YORK AND WILL PROBABLY ADDRESS A JEWISH ORGANIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KOHL BE ABLE TO MEET
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WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING THIS TRIP. KOHL AND HIS PARTY HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS OF US-FRG FRIENDSHIP OVER THE LONG TERM, AND CONTINUE TO BE STRONG FRIENDS OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. SUCH A MEETING WILL BE SEEN AS DESIRABLE NOT ONLY BY KOHL'S POLITICAL SUPPORTERS (WHO RECEIVED ALMOST 49 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN THE LAST NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN 1976)

BUT WILL INDEED BE VIEWED AS NORMAL BY GOVERNMENT FIGURES SUCH AS SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER. IN SHORT, AT A TIME OF STRAINS IN THE US-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, SUCH A MEETING WOULD CONVEY A POSITIVE CONTINUING SENSE OF INTEREST IN THE FRG AS A WHOLE.

STOESSEL

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